

Appl. No. 10/710,234
Amdt. dated March 08, 2006
Reply to Office action of December 12, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims are indefinite since in claim 1, line 8,
5 "...phase difference..." and lines 10-11, "...phase adjusting signal..." appear to refer, in common, to one "phase" related system element/function since there is no language otherwise, and thus what is claimed is not clear. In claim 18, lines 7 and 9, the "...phase..." language does not make it clear what is or is not being claimed.

10 Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 to indicate that the phase adjusting signal corresponds to a phase difference between the output signal and the first reference signal. In this way, it is now clear that "a phase difference between the first reference signal and the first frequency-divided signal" is different than "a phase adjusting signal corresponding to a phase difference between the output signal and the first reference
15 signal". No new matter is entered. In particular, please refer to the explanation in paragraph [0029] as illustrated in Figures 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 25, for example.

Claims 1-34 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, last line, "thephase should be --the phase--, in claim 2, line 2, "adjuststhe" should
20 be --adjusts the--, in claim 3, line 3, "outputsignal" should be --output signal --, in Claim 18, line 13, "thephase" should be --the phase--.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to change "thephase" to "the phase", amended claim claim 3 to change "outputsignal" to "output signal", and amended claim 18 to change
25 "bya" to "by a" and "thephase" to "the phase". No new matter is entered.

In all the claims, spacing between words should be corrected. Appropriate

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correction is required.

In addition to the above-described spacing error corrects to the claims, Applicant has also corrected numerous missing space errors caused due to electronic submission of the patent application and small grammatical errors within the specification. In particular, the following paragraphs are amended: [0001], [0002], [0003], [0025], [0029], [0030], [0031], [0032], [0033], [0034], [0036], [0037], [0038], [0039], [0040], [0042], [0043], [0047], [0048], [0049], [0050], and [0051]. No new matter is entered.

Claims 1, 3, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 102b as being clearly anticipated by Stepp, claims 1, 3, 5, 8-10, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25-27 and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 102b as being clearly anticipated by Bokui et al., and claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-11, 15, 18, 20, 22-23, 25-28, and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 102a as being clearly anticipated by Hsu et al.

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Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all the limitations of claim 2; claim 2 is correspondingly cancelled. Likewise, applicant has amended claim 18 to include all the limitations of claim 19; claim 19 is correspondingly cancelled. No new matter is entered by these amendments. Such functionality is explained in paragraph [0029] of the present invention, in particular: "the threshold value N is the dividing ratio of the phase-controllable frequency divider 160. In other words, if the frequency of the output clock is equal to F, the frequency of the frequency-divided signal equals (F/N)", and "an offset value is transmitted to the phase-controllable frequency divider 160 through the phase-adjusting signal". Additionally, Fig.5 shows a flowchart describing related steps of tuning the count value CNT utilized by the phase-controllable frequency divider 160, and Figures 4, 8-13 and 15 each show a phase-controllable frequency divider 260, 360, 460, 560, 660, and 760, which changes the dividing ratio according to a phase adjusting signal.

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Applicant points out that both claim 2 and claim 19 were not found anticipated by

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the above cited references because none of Stepp, Bokui et al., or Hsu et al. teach the phase-controllable frequency divider adjusts the frequency dividing ratio according to the phase adjusting signal or adjusting the frequency dividing ratio according to the phase adjusting signal. Concerning the teachings of Stepp, applicant points out that Fig.1 of

5 Stepp shows frequency divider T2 having a dividing ratio not being adjusted according to a phase adjustment signal. A phase adjusting operation is instead performed by phase shifter PHS after the frequency divider T2. Concerning the teachings of Bokui et al., applicant points out that Fig.1 of Bokui et al. shows the Frequency divider 4 having a dividing ratio not being adjusted according to a phase adjustment signal. A phase

10 adjusting operation is instead performed by Phase adjusting circuit 5 after the Frequency divider 4. Concerning the teachings of Hsu et al., applicant points out that Fig.6 of Hsu et al. shows the Frequency divider 1 (106) having a dividing ratio not being adjusted according to a phase adjustment signal. A phase adjusting operation is instead performed by Phase adjusting circuit 108 after the Frequency divider 1 (106).

15 Because of at least the above stated differences, applicant asserts that currently amended claims 1 and 18 should be found allowable over the teachings of Stepp, Bokui et al., and Hsu et al. Reconsideration of currently amended claims 1 and 18 is respectfully requested. As claims 3-17 are dependent on independent claim 1, if claim 1 is found allowable, so too should the dependent claims 3-17. Similarly, as claims 20-34 are

20 dependent on independent claim 18, if claim 18 is found allowable, so too should the dependent claims 20-34.

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Sincerely yours,



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- 10 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan.)